

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6766

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11966

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US IS EG

SUBJECT: ISARELI HARASSMENT OF AMOCO DRILLING OPERATIONS

REF: A. STATE 220189 B. CAIRO 11965

HAVE JUST BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL GAMASY. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY HILAL OF MID-AFTERNOON ISRAELI SHOOTING INCIDENT INVOLVING PLATFORM 6 BOUYS. GAMASY STATES CATEGORICALY THAT NO RPT NO EGYPTIAN NAVAL VESSELS WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME THAT MIGHT HAVE DRAWN ISRAELI FIRE.

AS HE HAD TOLD ME EARLIER IN DAY SINGLE EGYPTIAN FRIGATE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED MOVE SOUTH AND, ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN NAVY COMPLIED WITH INSTRUCTION. ALTHOUGH HILAL HAD TOLD HIM OF 2 OR 3 EGYPTIAN NAVAL SORTIES INTO AREA BETWEEN 1500 & 1800 TODAY, GAMASY STATES EGYPTIAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES DENY THIS. ACCORDING TO THE GENERALS INFORMATION THE ISRAELI PATROL BOATS WERE STILL IN AREA ABOUT 1900 AS DETECTED BY RADAR.

GAMASY STATES FURTHER, THAT AT PRESENT TIME (2300) ALL IS QUIET. EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS DID NO RPT NO FIRING. HILAL HAD TOLD HIM OF AMOCOS DECISION SEND MARINER TO JULY 25TH FIELD FOR FEW DAYS TO ALLOW SITUATION TO COOL AND TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT. HILAL HAD INDICATED HIS APPROVAL OF THIS PROCEDURE. GENERAL
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GAMASY EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION.

I TOLD THE GENERAL THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT URGENT INSTRUCTIONS TO TEL AVIV TO PRESS THE ISRAELIS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SHOOTING IN AMOCO FIELD AND I WAS ASKING THE SAME OF HIM. GAMASY NOTED EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS HAVE NOT FIRED DURING THE DAY AND HE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FIRING IN AMOCO AREA.

THE GENERAL MENTIONED THAT EARLIER THIS MORNING ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN GUN BOATS WERE SAILING PARRELL TO EACH OTHER AND WERE SO CLOSE THAT THE CREWS COULD ALMOST SHAKE HANDS.
EILTS

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